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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1315

October 24, 2018

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The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Pai:

I am submitting this letter regarding the Petition for Reconsideration of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") *March 23, 2018 Report and Order*, filed by Hamilton County Telephone Co-op ("Hamilton" or "the Co-op") to the FCC for the purposes of reviewing areas that were eliminated from Alternative Connect America Model ("A-CAM") funding due to data showing a competitive overlap. I understand Hamilton is pursuing a correction in order to restore federal broadband support for the roughly 2,200 affected locations in my district.

I share the goals of the FCC's mission to bring high speed broadband to rural America. Indeed, to stay connected in this new age of technology, all rural and urban areas should be allowed equal access and the ability to receive adequate high-speed broadband to operate in the modern world. Moreover, I am neutral when it comes to competition between broadband providers in my district, particularly when they are working to deploy critical services in rural areas.

That said, given the importance of broadband internet access, the implications of your decision in the matter of Hamilton's request are significant to my constituents. As such, I respectfully ask that the FCC thoroughly review the facts of Hamilton's petition, including engineering studies and other relevant information, in order to ensure scarce federal resources are used as effectively as possible in delivering connectivity to rural consumers in my district. As you know from our multiple hearings on mapping and rural broadband, having more precise data to what affordable services are available in hard-to-reach services is essential to close the digital divide.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your work to expand broadband access to all Americans. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-5271.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition for reconsideration filed by Hamilton County Telephone Co-op (Hamilton) seeking review of the Commission's *2018 Rate-of-Return Report and Order and NPRM*. On December 12, 2018, the Commission adopted an Order on Reconsideration denying Hamilton's petition, finding that the petition effectively came two years too late.

The petition requested an increase in Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support for 2,444 locations, effectively asking the Commission to revise Hamilton's A-CAM eligible census blocks that the Commission had established two years ago in the *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*. Since that 2016 order, the Commission has not sought comment on or otherwise indicated in any way that it would allow changes, modifications, or adjustments to funded locations for authorized A-CAM carriers. In addition, the Commission found that the carrier's petition advanced arguments identical to those made in petitions the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau had rejected in previous orders, and that its attempt to introduce new evidence concerning the coverage claims of an unsubsidized competitor fell short. Although the Commission could not grant relief in this case, I can assure you that its consideration involved a fair and comprehensive examination of the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai